

What to do if you find purple or Iberian starthistle...

- This is a priority noxious weed. Report sites to the Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately!
- Document sites using landmarks or GPS coordinates for future investigation.
- Prevent the spread by thoroughly cleaning boots, pets, livestock, or equipment of mud and debris that may carry seeds.

Stop purple and Iberian starthistle spread in Oregon!

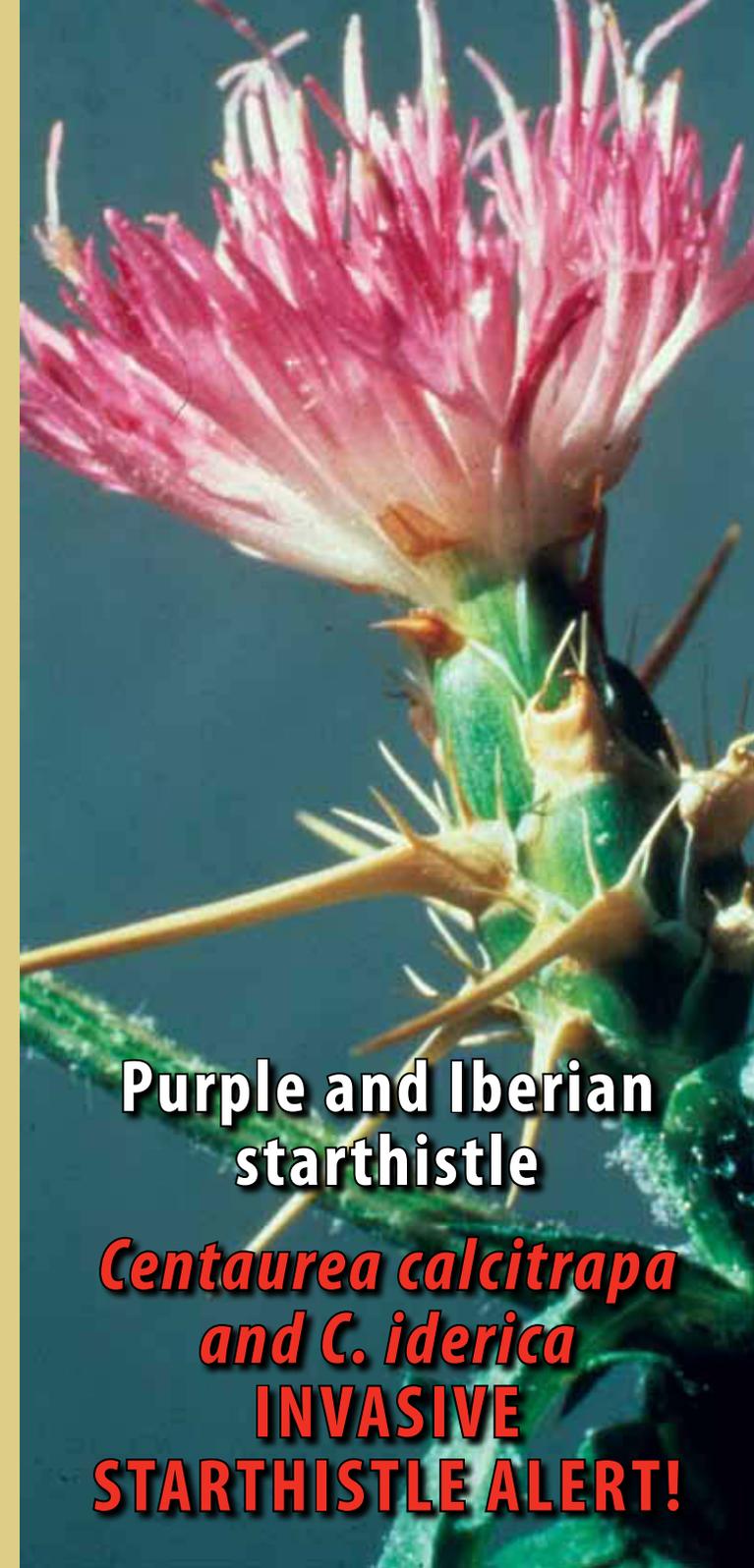
Report suspect sites to

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weed Control Program
503-986-4621
or call

1-866-INVADER



**Oregon Department
of Agriculture**
Plant Division
Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem OR 97301-2532



**Purple and Iberian
starthistle**

***Centaurea calcitrapa*
and *C. iberica*
INVASIVE
STARThISTLE ALERT!**



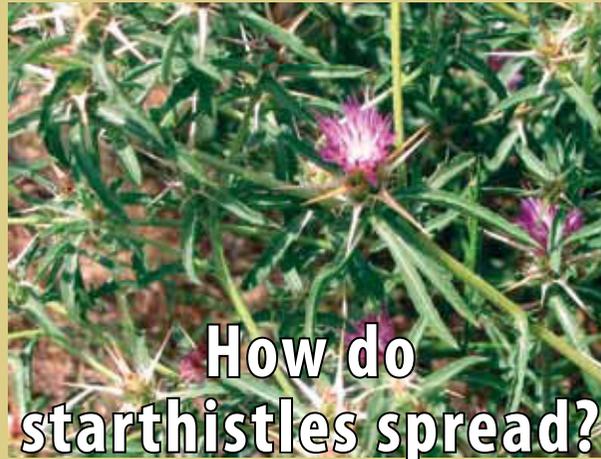
What are purple and Iberian starthistle?

Purple and Iberian starthistle have aggressively spread through California and many western states. Oregon's climate and environmental conditions are well suited to invasion by these highly competitive starthistles that threaten natural areas, pastures, and rangeland. Over 1.5 million acres are at risk, with impacts exceeding \$12 million per year, if these invaders become established in Oregon.



What do purple and Iberian starthistle do?

These starthistles are highly competitive, growing in both arid and higher rainfall areas. Natural habitat, pasture, and rangeland are at risk in both eastern and western Oregon. Rosettes and mature plants are armed with stiff ridged spines. Heavy stands deter grazing, limit wildlife access, impede recreation, and degrade natural areas.

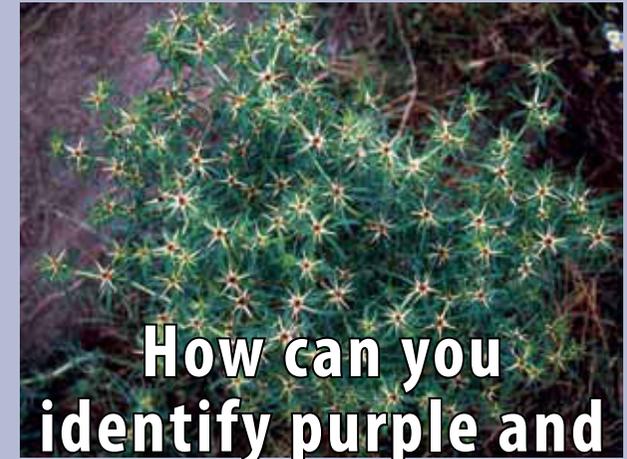


How do starthistles spread?

Purple and Iberian starthistles reproduce and spread by seed. Seed production is highly prolific and dormant seeds establish persistent seed banks. Livestock, equipment, vehicles, and recreational activities can move seed. Seedheads dislodge and act as dispersal units, spreading seed from late summer through winter.



- Widespread
- Limited
- Historical site-no longer present
- Not known to occur



How can you identify purple and Iberian starthistle?

Purple and Iberian starthistles are biennials that grow to 3 feet tall. Light green in color, leaves are divided into narrow elongated segments. A long taproot provides a competitive advantage over annual and perennial grasses. The bracts of the flower head has long stiff straw-colored spines and flower varies from lavender to deep purple in color. Rosette leaves are deeply lobed and also armed with a cluster of stiff straw-colored spines in the center.